

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T ROME 12511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, GER, FR, NATO

SUBJECT: HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

1. DCM SAW PETRIGANANI THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER
SEPTEMBER 11 FOR A REVIEW OF THE MEETING BETWEEN RUMOR AND
SCHMIDT AT BELLAGIO AND A PREVIEW OF SUMMIT DINNER IN PARIS ON
NEXT SATURDAY.

2. PETRIGNANI HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO BONN'S EXCELLENT REPORTING ON
BELLAGIO MEETING EXCEPT A FEW ATMOSPHERICS. HE SAID THAT RUMOR
HAD MADE A STRONG CANDID PRESENTATION ABOUT ITALY'S STRENGTHS AND
WEAKNESSES. AND THAT SCHMIDT SEEMED RECEPTIVE. AT LEAST HE

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CAME UP WITH THE MONEY. THE ITALIANS WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED

BY THE APPARENT CLOSENESS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND GISCARD. THE FORMER KEPT MENTIONING PHONE CONVERSATIONS AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT WHICH SEEMED TO INDICATE STEADY ONGOING CONTACTS.

3. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE UP-COMING DINNER FOR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN PARIS ON SEPTEMBER 14, PETRIGNANI SAID THE ITALIANS WELCOME THIS INITIATIVE BY GISCARD ALTHOUGH THEY BASICALLY OPPOSE SUMMITRY AT THE EXPENSE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. THE ITALIANS UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRENCH SOUNDED OUT WILSON BEFORE THEY ISSUED THE INVITATIONS. APPARENTLY WILSON INDICATED THE WILLINGNESS TO ATTEND DESPITE IMMINENT BRITISH ELECTIONS.

4. PETRIGNANI INDICATED THAT GISCARD'S LETTER TO RUMOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A CONVERSATION AMONG HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WITHOUT ADVISERS OR FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD GIVE GISCARD SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND TO HELP HIM DECIDE WHETHER TO CALL FOR A FORMAL SUMMIT MEETING OF THE NINE DURING THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY. RUMOR REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT THIS YEAR AN EC SUMMIT COULD PROCEED WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT THERE IS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN US AND EC INTERESTS. THE ITALIANS ARE FIRM IN THEIR BELIEF THAT A UNITED EUROPE IS ENTIRELY COMPATIBLE WITH A STRONG ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

5. THE LANGUAGES OF THE DINNER WILL BE FRENCH AND ENGLISH. SINCE RUMOR SPEAKS NO ENGLISH AND IS NOT COMFORTABLE IN FRENCH IT HAS BEEN ARRANGED THAT HE WILL SPEAK IN ITALIAN WITH INTERPRETATION INTO FRENCH.

6. THE ITALIAN POSITION IS THAT A SUMMIT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE IF IT IS CAREFULLY PREPARED AND WILL RESULT IN THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A POLITICAL SECRETARIAT PETRIGNANI REMARKED THAT AT BELLAGIO SCHMIDT MADE VAGUE COMMENTS WHICH SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE GERMANS WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRETARIAT IN PARIS IF THE FRENCH WOULD MAKE SOME MOVE TOWARD CLOSER TIES WITH NATO. THE ITALIANS PREFER THAT ANY SUCH ORGANIZATION BE ESTABLISHED IN BRUSSELS BUT IN ANY EVENT DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ISSUE OF A POLITICAL SECRETARIAT IS SUFFICIENTLY MATURE TO WARRANT DECISION.

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7. ACCORDING TO PETRIGNANI, THE GERMANS HAVE INDICATED A DESIRE TO HARMONIZE MEMBER STATES ECONOMIC POLICIES IN THE SHORT TERM ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS. THE ITALIANS ARE PREPARED TO GO ALONG BUT INSIST THAT SURPLUS STATES (ESPECIALLY GERMANY) SHOULD ACT TO REDUCE SURPLUSES AND THUS HELP THE DEFICIT STATES. THE FRG MUST KEEP UP ITS LEVEL OF IMPORTS. IN GENERAL THE ITALIANS ARE RELUCTANT TO LIMIT COORDINATION TO SIMPLE PRAGMATIC DECISIONS ON THE ECONOMY SINCE THEY BELIEVE THE BROADER CONCEPTS OF EUROPEAN UNITY NEED TO

BE REAFFIRMED. VOLPE

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